TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND COUNCIL.

FIRST SESSION, 1103.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

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Thursday the 1st December 1927/16th Vrischikam 1103.

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-eight of the clock, M. E. Watts Esquire, B. A., Barrister-at-Law, Dewan, presiding.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Sir, it is my melancholy duty to bring to the notice of this House the sad and unexpected news of the death of Sir P. Rajagopalachariar this morning. We, the people of Travancore, owe much to him as he was the Dewan of the State for a long period of seven years, having vacated his seat in Medom 1089. We all know that his very keen intelligence, versatile talents, his remarkable capacity to know men and things and his courtesy to all men whom he met brought him very close to the people of Travancore and raised him very high in their estimation. As the Dewan of the State, he has done much to advance it; and I need only mention now that it was he who had the boldness to throw open all the public schools to all communities, irrespective of caste or creed. After his retirement from the State, he became the Executive Council Member of the Government of Madras, and after that, he became the first President of the reformed Legislative Council of Madras. Though an official for a very long time, we know from what we have seen that he was an admirable President, being, I believe, the best of all the Council Presidents, and he conducted the Council in such a way as to safeguard the interests of the people for whose benefit the Council was intended. By his tact and impartiality he won the confidence of all parties. After his retirement from there, he became a Member of the Council of the Secretary of State. Though an official, as I stated, for a very long time, he had the courage of his conviction and gave the statement which he did as a witness before the Public Service Commission. He did not hesitate to express his view on the constitution of the local governments in India. That exemplifies the statement that he had the courage of his conviction. He served long both British India and Travancore, and even after his retirement he took a good deal of interest in Travancore and its affairs. I may, without any fear of contradiction, say that he was one of the brightest Indians that we have ever seen, one of the most capable administrators that we have known,

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and all India will mourn his loss for a very long time. It is our duty to express our heartfelt sympathy towards the members of his family in their sad bereavement.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, I have no doubt all of you feel, as I feel, that the melancholy news Mr. Subba Aiyar has placed before this House will be deplored by every one here present. Sir P. Rajagopalachariar had a powerful personality and a forceful brain added to his supreme courage, and these great characteristics of his have left an indelible impression upon the administration of the State. For his services during seven years in Travancore the people of this State are and should be under a deep debt of obligation. There have been many Dewans in Travancore. Of those during the last century, I think, Sir P. Rajagopalachariar may be ranked with the three greatest. As a mark of our respect for him and of our regret, I propose that this Council do adjourn for the day and that our sympathy be conveyed to his family and be brought upon record in the proceedings of this House.

We will now adjourn and meet tomorrow morning at half past eleven.

The Council adjourned at 11-44 A. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. next day.

P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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